

Message Text

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21/13

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DRC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 COME-00 TRSE-00 IGA-02

AID-20 EB-11 SCEM-02 INT-08 NEA-10 AF-10 /200 W

----- 059790

R 220900Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4971

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION NATO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, ENRG,MY

SUBJ: MINISTER ZUEREB'S STATEMENT

REF: VALLETTA 2267

1. MIN TRADE, INDUSTRY AND TOURISM XUEREB MADE STATEMENT ON TV NOV 20 DEVOTED LARGELY TO RECORD RESULTS IN FIELD OF TOURISM. NO RPT NO REFERENCE MADE TO PETROLEUM SUPPLY PROBLEM (SEE REFTEL).

2. XUEREB NOTED NUMBER OF TOURISTS THIS CALENDAR YEAR HAS ALREADY EXCEEDED 190,000 OR MORE THAN 4,000 ABOVE RECORD 1969 TOURIST FIGURE. GOM EXPECTS TOTAL TO REACH WELL OVER 200,000 BEFORE END OF YEAR. EXPENDITURES BY TOURISTS THIS YEAR BEING ESTIMATED BY GOM AT 14 MILLION MALTA POUNDS (ONE MALTA POUND EQUALS APPROXIMATELY DOLS 2.71). 12,500 PEOPLE CURRENTLY EMPLOYED IN HOTELS AND OTHER ASPECTS TOURIST INDUSTRY. THIS FIGURE EXPTECTED TO RISE TO 15,500 BY

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1979 IF DEVELOPMENT GOALS OF 350,000 TOURISTS PER YEAR

ACHIEVED I WITH ADDITION 3,000 NEW BEDS.

3. COMMENT: WHILE XUEREBS WAS CONCERNED WITH BLOWING
MLP HORN, LOCAL PETROLEUM COMPANIES CONTINUE TO FACE
PRESSURES. LATEST EXAMPLE IS ARTICLE IN NOV 21 ENGLISH
LANGUAGE DAILY MALTA NEWS (GWU) REPORTING LOCAL SHELL
MANAGER S. ATTARD ACCUSED OF STARTING RATIONING RUMORS.
ALLEGATION FLATLY DENIED BY SHELL MANAGER. ACCORDING
INDUSTRY SOURCES. ATTARD WAS FACED WITH SIMILAR ALLEGA-
TION DURING MEETING WITH XUEREBS EARLIER THIS WEEK.
DESPITE RUMORS GOM APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL
THUS FAR IN DISCOURAGING HOARDING.GETZ

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30 JUN 2005

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